

Abstract Form

Abstract is to be typed in a 10 point font/typeface (Times Roman preferred) and must fit in the space below; additional pages may not be submitted.

FOR REVIEWER USE

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Reviewer's signature

FOR OFFICE USE

Date: _____

Time: _____

TITLE:

ORGAN DONATION: AN ANALYSIS OF REQUESTERS

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Purpose In recent years intensive efforts have focused on assuring that every death of a potential organ donor is referred to the organ procurement organizations (OPO). Because donation has plateaued, this OPO felt a closer look into request process was warranted. Specifically, the outcome, profession, and training of the requesters.

Method In 1997, between January through June the records of 5080 hospital deaths were reviewed. The review was to assure all potential donors were referred for evaluation and to determine if, how, and by whom a request for donation was made.

Results The chart review disclosed: 142 patients met brain death criteria, 109 were families provided the option of organ donation, 5 families approached the hospital staff with a request for organ donation, 28 families were not given the opportunity to consider donation. The profession of the requester, timing and time spent with and the evaluation of the dynamics of the donor family are presented.

Profession	Requests	#Consents%	De-coupled	Requester Time
OPO Coordinator	73	35 (48%)	Yes	> 120 min
Physician	20	01 (05%)	No	< 30 min
Nurse	09	02 (22%)	Sometimes	< 60 min
Pastoral Care	06	00 (00%)	Yes	> 60 min
Other	01	00 (00%)	N/A	N/A
Joint approach	27	12 (63%)	Yes	< 120 min

DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATION (if completed, provide results):

Discussion/proposed project with evaluation We have determined that timing of the approach in relation to the family's verbalized understanding of the brain death diagnosis was important. The analysis of the request process would also indicate that trained OPO personnel who could assess the family's level of understanding of death and spend the needed time with families to answer questions about the donor process achieved a higher consent rate. In view of these findings, we propose that professional education programs designed to teach referring practitioners how to discuss donation with families be abandoned in favor of the concept of joint approach reserving a separate time for the discussion of donation for an individual with procurement expertise and a member of the patient care team.

- We propose that only personnel trained in the consent process make the approach. This activity will be tracked for outcome by the OPO and compared against single approach either hospital personnel or OPO. Tracked also will be the time spent, profession(s) of the requester(s), level of understanding by family of the death diagnosis, and the types of question posed by the family during the request process.
- We also propose to re-approach families who were not approached by a trained requester. The same information will be tracked.

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